

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ J 4 3	♠ Q 8 7 2	♠ K 10 6 5
♥ 10 5	♥ A Q J 8 7 3	♥ 9 6 2
♦ J 10 7 5	♦ 4 2	♦ A K Q 9
♣ Q J 9 2	♣ 5	♣ 10 4

♠ A 9	♠ A 9
♥ K 4	♥ K 4
♦ 8 6 3	♦ 8 6 3
♣ A K 8 7 6 3	♣ A K 8 7 6 3

9	W	N	E
5 12	S		
14			

NS 4♥; NS 3N; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; EW 1♦; Par +420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	Dbl	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	All pass	

After the first two bids of the auction, East can either make a TAKEOUT DOUBLE showing 4+4+ in the unbid suits (diamonds and spades here), or bid 2♦. I like the takeout double a little better because it shows the 4-card spade suit. Assuming East makes a takeout double, South will bid 2♣. North will bid 2♥ showing 6-9 HCP and a 6+ card heart suit (and a dislike for partner's club suit) and we'll play it there.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

	♠ 6 2		
	♥ 6 2		
	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 2		
	♣ 9 7 5		
♠ A Q J 10		♠ 8 5 4	
♥ 9 7 3		♥ A K Q	
♦ A K		♦ Q 5 4 3	
♣ K 4 3 2		♣ A J 10	
	♠ K 9 7 3		
	♥ J 10 8 5 4		
	♦ J		
	♣ Q 8 6		

EW 7N; EW 7♠; EW 7♣; EW 5♥; EW 4♦; Par -2220

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 N	Pass	4 N	Pass
6 N	All pass		

After the 1N opening - East's hand is INVITATIONAL to slam. If both hands are balanced, we need 33 combined HCP to make a slam. So, 16 opposite 15-16 won't cut it, but if opener happens to have 17 (or maybe 16 HCP with a 5-card suit), we have enough for slam.

So, East has no interest in a major suit fit. To invite, East can jump to 4 NT. This is called QUANTITATIVE 4 NT (AKA "invitational" 4 NT). It is inviting West to slam, depending on if West is at the top or bottom of his range. With 15 or a bad 16, West will pass. With a good 16 or 17, West should bid slam.

Here, West bids 6N with the big 17 count. North has a normal top-of-a-sequence lead (♦T).

N/S have 3 ♥ and 3 ♦ tricks and have to find 6 in the majors. First let's check to see if the ♠ finesse works. If it does, we can take 4 ♠ tricks (by finessing again and again), and then the ♣ AK for 12 tricks. If the spade finesse doesn't work, we'd have to try to take an extra club trick by finessing in clubs. Today, the ♠ K is onside, so we win the ♦ in hand, play a ♥ to dummy and play a ♠ to the Ten. It wins! Now play a ♥ to dummy and finesse the spade again. Now - don't assume the King will fall! Cash the ♦ K to unblock, play your last ♥ to dummy. Cash the ♦ Q.

Now we've taken 3 ♥, 2 ♠, and 3 ♦. Finesse the ♠ one last time and cash the ♠ A. Now we've taken 3 ♥, 4 ♠, and 3 ♦, and we will cash the ♣ AK for 12 tricks.

Whenever we need 1 of 2 finesses (here, spades OR clubs) to work, the contract will make approximately 75% of the time - these are definitely good enough odds for a slam!

Board 5
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ 5 4	♠ K Q J 7 2	♠ 9 3
♥ A 3 2	♥ Q 10 6 5	♥ 8 7
♦ Q J 7 6	♦ 10 5 2	♦ A K 9 4 3
♣ K 9 6 5	♣ 8	♣ 10 7 3 2

♠ A 10 8 6	♠ A 10 8 6
♥ K J 9 4	♥ K J 9 4
♦ 8	♦ 8
♣ A Q J 4	♣ A Q J 4

8	W	N	E
10 7	S		
15			

NS 5♠; NS 5♥; EW 1♣; Par +650


<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	
Lead: ♦ A			

Over the 1 ♠ bid, South has too much playing strength to simply raise to 2 ♠. South is in the nice 14-16 range with 4-card support and side shortness - this hand should JUMP to 3 ♠.

North has a minimum, but with the 5th spade and unbalanced hand, should accept the invitation to game.

After the ♦ A lead, North should think about declaring strategy - pull trumps unless we have a good reason not to. Here, we want to ruff some diamond losers in dummy, before dummy's trumps are depleted, and then only lose two aces.

Board 6
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

<p>♠ Q 4 3 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ A K 8 3</p>	<p>♠ A J 8 ♥ 10 5 4 2 ♦ J 10 5 ♣ 6 4 2</p>	<p>♠ K 5 2 ♥ A K Q 7 ♦ A 9 8 7 ♣ J 7</p>	
<p>6 11 17 6</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 7 6 ♥ J 6 ♦ K 4 2 ♣ Q 10 9 5</p>		

EW 4N; EW 4♥; W 3♠; EW 4♦; E 2♠; EW 2♣; Par -430

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 N	Pass

3 N All pass

Lead: ♠ 10

E/W should have a normal 1N-3N auction. South has a tough lead - on auctions such as 1N (pass-pass-pass) or 1N (p) 1N (p-p-p), the bidders did not investigate about a major suit fit. Thus, if we are deciding between leading a major and a minor, tend to go with the major.

Here, a ♣ lead could work, but it could easily give up a trick, whereas the ♠T is very unlikely to give up a trick. You should lead the ♠T as opposed to 4th best because you have the T9 sequence, with only the 8 missing in the sequence. Whenever you have two touching honors, then missing only one before you have the next lower card, you should lead top of the sequence instead of 4th best.

Declarer has 1-2 ♠, 3 ♥, 2 ♣, and should work on diamonds to build more tricks. He should lead a ♦ from hand towards the Queen, in case the K is onside. Here, it is, and N/S should be able to take 9-10 tricks in NT.

On a ♣ lead, declarer gets a free ♣ trick he is not entitled to, and may take an extra trick overall.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 10 9 7 5	♠ 4 2	♠ K Q J 6
♥ K 9 8 6	♥ J 10 7 5 2	♥ 3
♦ Q 7 6	♦ K J 10	♦ A 8 4 2
♣ 7 4	♣ 10 3 2	♣ A 9 8 6

5	♠ A 8 3
5 14	♥ A Q 4
16	♦ 9 5 3
	♣ K Q J 5

EW 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 1N; NS 2♣; W 1♦; Par -110

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 N
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
2♠	All pass		
Lead: ♥ J			

After the 1 NT opening, North should transfer to hearts, and then pass, with only 5 HCP.

When the auction gets back to East, he knows the opponents don't have that many HCP. When the opponents stop low - at the 1 or 2 level - they generally have around half (~20) of the HCP in the deck. This means we also have around half the HCP in the deck. So, I'd make a TAKEOUT DOUBLE with the East hand. We can only do this AFTER E/W have limited their hands (North limited his hand by passing 2♥ - he's saying he doesn't have even enough to invite). East has the perfect takeout shape with short hearts and support for every other suit, so he can double.

West bids his 4 card spade suit, and I'd let them have it there - no reason to compete to the 3-level with only an 8-card heart fit.

N/S have to lose 1♠, 1♥, 1♣, and 2♦ to make the 2♠ contract.

Board 9

North Deals
E-W Vul

<p>♠ 8 7 ♥ Q 10 9 5 ♦ 4 2 ♣ A J 8 6 4</p>		<p>♠ A K 10 6 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ A K 9 6 3 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 5 3 2 ♥ J ♦ J 10 7 5 ♣ 10 7 3</p>
<p>14 7 5 14</p>		<p>♠ 9 4 ♥ A K 8 3 2 ♦ Q 8 ♣ K Q 9 5</p>

NS 4♥; NS 3N; NS 3♠; NS 4♦; NS 1♣; Par +420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All pass			
Lead: ♠ 8			

North opens 1♦ and rebids 1♠. South wants to check back about a heart fit, so he can introduce the club suit here. If you play FOURTH SUIT FORCING, this is simply an asking bid; if you don't, it is natural and forcing. Either way, North's first obligation is to show the 3-card heart support for partner.

Assuming we get to 4♥, this is ANOTHER hand where we have something we can ruff in dummy. If we pull trumps first, we will not get to ruff any clubs. We do have one big diamond to pitch one club on, but the ♣ 9 will be a loser unless we ruff it. So, win the opening lead (I'd lead one of the doubletons as West, but it is just a guess which one) and get to dummy in spades if necessary. Now lead a club TOWARD the ♣ KQ hand. They'll win the ace, but now you are set to ruff one in dummy, pull a couple of rounds of trump, and cash your diamonds to pitch the other club loser. This is difficult, but totally possible if you plan ahead. If you get to 3NT on this hand, you may make it, but it doesn't score as well as 4♥ making.

Once North does so, South can bid game in hearts. Due to the bad heart split, we have to lose two♥ and one♣.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 6 3	♠ A 4	♠ 10 9 8
♥ Q J	♥ A K 8 2	♥ 9 7 5 4 3
♦ K 8 7 6 2	♦ 4 3	♦ J 10
♣ J 4 3 2	♣ Q 10 9 7 6	♣ A K 5

13	♠ K Q J 7 5 2
7 8	♥ 10 6
12	♦ A Q 9 5
	♣ 8

NS 5♠; NS 4N; NS 2♥; NS 2♦; NS 2♣; Par +650

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	2♠
Lead: ♦ 6		All pass	

Once South shows extra spade length, North will go to game in spade switch a fit there and a game forcing hand opposite partner's opening bid.

West has a normal diamond lead, which unfortunately give sup a trick to declarer. South may try to RUFF a diamond in dummy - unfortunately, East also has only a doubleton diamond,, and can overruff you. South may try ruffing a diamond with the ♠ A, given that he has all of the top trumps, but that is not obvious.

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ A K 4	♠ 9 3	♠ Q J 8 7 2
♥ Q 3	♥ A K J 8 7	♥ 10 9 6
♦ A K 9	♦ Q 8 6 5	♦ 3 2
♣ A 10 9 8 4	♣ J 3	♣ K 7 5

♠ 10 6 5	♠ 10 6 5
♥ 5 4 2	♥ 5 4 2
♦ J 10 7 4	♦ J 10 7 4
♣ Q 6 2	♣ Q 6 2

11	♠ N	♠ Q J 8 7 2
20	W	♥ 10 9 6
6	E	♦ 3 2
3	S	♣ K 7 5

EW 4♠; EW 4♣; EW 2N; Par -420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
2 N	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 N	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		
Lead: ♥ A			

After the 2N opener, East has a game-forcing hand with a 5-card major. So, our plan of attack is to transfer to our major, then bid 3 NT - this gives partner the option of playing in 3 NT without an 8-card major fit, or bidding 4M with the 3-card support.

Here, West does have the 3-card spade support, so West will "correct" 3N to 4♠ and play it there. E/W have to lose 2♥ and 1♣ to make the contract.

Board 12
 West Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ A 4	♠ Q 10 5 2	♠ 9
♥ J 5 2	♥ A 10 8	♥ K Q 9 7 6
♦ J 10 8 2	♦ A 6	♦ K 9 7 4
♣ J 7 6 4	♣ K 8 3 2	♣ Q 10 5

13	♠ K J 8 7 6 3
7 10	♥ 4 3
10	♦ Q 5 3
	♣ A 9

NS 4♠; NS 3N; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; NS 1♣; Par +620

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	
Lead: ♥ 2			

After North opens 1 ♣, East has just enough to overcall 1 ♥, and South should bid 1 ♠. West has a minimum, but enough to raise to 2 ♥, showing 6-9 points and heart support. Then North can go to 2 ♠ to show the spade support.

Here, again, we've found a spade fit and South is INVITATIONAL - he can make a HELP SUIT GAME TRY telling partner he is invitational, and needs a little help in the diamond suit.

North is on the border, but with a very helpful diamond honor (and only a doubleton in diamonds), North can go to game.

West should lead a small heart and N/S have to lose only 1 ♠, 1 ♥, and 1 ♦ to make the contract.